

## THE FRAGILE FUTURE OF HAITI

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, next week I will be leading a bipartisan delegation to the nation of Haiti. I have been there many times in the last five years, and never before have I seen obstacles of nation-building so substantial and the determination of a people so focused.

In December 1990, Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected president in the first democratic elections Haiti ever held. He overwhelmingly defeated all the other candidates, including the U.S.-backed candidate. Less than one year later, in September 1991, he was overthrown by a military coup d'etat. The international community responded with a massive embargo to try to squeeze power from the grip of the junta.

During the years of the military regime, Haiti suffered under horrible human rights conditions. The terror that people thought they had put behind them in 1986 and 1987 when the Duvalier dictatorship ended and a new constitution was formed returned with a new vengeance. Supporters of democracy were harassed by attachés and the FAHD, as the Haitian army was called. Worst of all, as many as 5000 people were killed by a paramilitary organization called FRAPH, led by a U.S. intelligence contact named Emmanuel "Toto" Constant.

By 1994, President Clinton decided that this was too much and it was time to act. On September 19, U.S. troops led a multi-national force in Operation Uphold Democracy that restored Haiti's legitimately elected government to power.

It soon became obvious, though, that Haiti's challenges had just begun.

For one, Haiti had to figure out what to do with a military that was 7,000 soldiers strong. It managed to abolish that corrupt institution and build an interim public safety force with the help of the international community. Since then Haiti has been working with the United States and the international community to build a civilian police force that respects the rule of law and human rights while gaining the confidence of the population. Now the police force is 6,500 officers strong, and the U.S. is largely responsible for training 5,200 of them.

Haiti also had to revitalize an economy that had been ravaged by a massive drug trade, a constant flow of contraband, and the flight of private investment in the face of the embargo. Today real GDP growth is hovering around 3 to 5 percent, inflation is down to a remarkable 7 percent, and exports are up 44 percent. Many economic reforms have taken place, and the government is ebbing toward dialogue with those popular organizations, unions, and people who have an interest in seeing that they occur in the least harmful way, and with the greatest democratic input. Economic reforms need to happen, but they will only be successful with the full consent and participation of those most profoundly affected by them.

Haiti also discovered that political interests that had united around Aristide before and during the coup began fragmenting, creating a diversity of views but also a new kind of politi-

cal confusion. This confusion has culminated in a political paralysis that has left Haiti without a prime minister for over a year now.

I am going to Haiti with my good colleagues, Mr. DELAHUNT from Massachusetts and Mr. CHRISTENSEN from Nebraska in the hopes that we can gain some insight into the crisis, offer our thoughts, and describe to them what I think is happening here in Washington with regard to Haiti. Mr. Speaker, I think Haiti has slipped from the radar screen of many in Congress, which I think is very problematic. I also think it is clear that those in Congress who do follow Haiti closely are terribly frustrated with this enduring political crisis that has dragged on for so long.

This delegation is going to Haiti because we believe a political solution is necessary and possible. I hope the American people and the Congress are prepared to give this fragile democracy the attention it deserves. We need to do everything we can to make sure this nation succeeds and that the hard fought gains of the democratic movements of the 1980's are not turned back. Let's keep hope alive in Haiti.

## TRIBUTE TO BILL McDONALD

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize my friend Bill McDonald, a constituent from Douglas, Arizona, who earlier this month was awarded a prestigious "genius grant" by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. I can't think of anyone more deserving of this recognition, for I have seen the fruits of Bill's particular vision and genius first hand.

Bill and I have a few things in common: We both grew up on family ranches in southeastern Arizona, and we both have an abiding faith in the bedrock values of hard work, individual liberty, and personal responsibility. We also share a love for the land which, in Bill's case, has sustained his family for five generations.

To appreciate the true significance of the accomplishment for which Bill has been recognized, one must first understand that there is a real Range War raging through the American West today. It is a classic conflict that pits certain environmentalists against the cattle ranching industry, and federal land managers have been caught in the crossfire.

Bill decided to reject the old paradigm and try something new. With true pioneering spirit, he established the Malpai Borderlands Group, a group of neighboring ranchers whose properties, along with adjacent public lands, comprise about one million acres of contiguous territory in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

Under Bill's leadership, and in cooperation with various federal land management agencies, conservationists and scientists, the Malpai Borderlands Group ranchers have developed an innovative, voluntary land management strategy. They also have funded programs to identify and protect endangered species on their land.

Through a unique, cooperative grass banking program, participating ranchers are permitted to graze their cattle on one another's

property. This eliminates problems, such as erosion and habitat destruction, that can result from overgrazing.

Group members also have pooled resources to support experimental land management programs, including the replanting of native grasses. And they have agreed to establish permanent conservation easements to prevent the open range from being subdivided for residential development.

Bill and his neighbors have demonstrated that cattle ranching can be both economically rewarding and ecologically responsible. And the Malpai Borderlands Group that he founded is proof positive that ranchers, acting with enlightened self interest, can be the best stewards of the land they love.

## HONORING OFFICER THOMAS A. PORTER

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a valiant peace officer who time and time again over his long career in law enforcement demonstrated bravery and self-sacrifice.

Officer Thomas A. Porter, a native of the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts, showed from an early age his devotion to law enforcement—working as a teenage Junior Deputy to educate his school peers about the dangers of drug abuse. While working his way through the University of Alabama, Officer Porter received high honors in the fields of criminal justice, social work, and public relations, and served as an intern to a state supreme court judge and future U.S. Senator.

But it was in his chosen field of law enforcement that Officer Porter most distinguished himself.

His first assignment came with the Hyannisport Police Department on Cape Cod, where he served and protected every resident of the community, including the members of my family. During his tenure on the Hyannisport force, Officer Porter, in complete disregard for his own safety, broke down the door of a burning house and rescued an 82-year-old man.

Officer Porter left Cape Cod for Wintergreen, Virginia, Police Department, where he continued to compile an outstanding record, uncovering a notorious burglar ring and working on special assignment with the Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Officer Porter's law-enforcement career came to a tragic and premature close in 1992. While confronting a suspect in a breaking-and-entering investigation, he was run over by the suspect's vehicle and suffered spinal cord injuries and several broken bones. He was paralyzed for almost two years but through rehabilitation has been able to regain partial mobility. Throughout the period of his convalescence, Officer Porter has served as an inspiration to fellow disabled officers.

In recognition of his selfless duty and willingness—at any moment of danger—to give his last full measure of devotion, the National Trust of Chiefs of Police Association voted earlier this year to award Officer Porter the Legion of Honor Medal as well as the Silver Star for Bravery.

I had the privilege today of presenting these honors to Officer Porter during a ceremony in my office. His career in law enforcement stands as a model to all who aspire to public service, and his courage in the face of catastrophic injury serves as an inspiration to every American.

HONORING RHONDA (RANDI)  
WEINGARTEN

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to praise a woman who has accomplished much. Rhonda (Randi) Weingarten is the new president of the 130,000-member United Federation of Teachers, the largest local union in the United States. She is also vice president of the 960,000 member American Federation of Teachers, the UFT's national affiliate and is a member of the Board of Directors of both the New York State United Teachers and the New York City Central Labor Council.

From 1986 to 1998 Randi served as counsel to UFT President Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations for teachers and other school employees. When Ms. Feldman became president of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi was selected to serve as president. She has a B.S. from Cornell and graduated cum laude from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She was also an adjunct professor at Cardozo from 1986-91. She first became affiliated with the UFT when working for a prestigious law firm which had the union as a client.

She has served as legislative assistant for the New York State Senate Labor Committee and as a mediator on disputes originating in the New York Criminal Court. She has served as a member of the board and then as chairperson of the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York. She is also a certified teacher of social studies and American History.

Randi continues to advance the cause of education in New York. I look forward to working with her to keep the education of our youth as the highest priority of the people and our governments at every level.

TRIBUTE TO MACGREGOR RANCH

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the history and legacy of one of Colorado's oldest and largest historic cattle ranches, the MacGregor Ranch, and to pay tribute to all of those that worked to create, operate and protect it. This scenic, 3,000-acre ranch is located near the growing town of Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Homesteaded by Alexander and Clara MacGregor in 1873, the MacGregor ranch will celebrate its 125th anniversary as a working ranch on August 28 and 29, 1998. Moreover, Clara MacGregor, the first postmistress in Estes Park, will be honored with a commemorative postmark.

The MacGregor's granddaughter, Muriel Lurilla MacGregor, ran the ranch until her death in 1970. A remarkable woman, Muriel earned a law degree from the University of Denver at a time when women lawyers were practically unknown. She also held degrees from the University of Colorado and from Colorado College. Hoping to preserve the beautiful ranch, Muriel's estate planning called for the ranch to be held in trust, and operated as it had been.

The Internal Revenue Service, however, disagreed and attempted to collect over two million dollars in inheritance taxes and fees from the relatives of Mrs. MacGregor. Fortunately, some civic-minded volunteers and a few lawyers in the Colorado Attorney General's Office worked diligently to prevent that, and to save the ranch from impending litigation and sale. Attorneys Ruth Anne Garland, James Riles and Howard Kennison put in eight years of hard work on the issues. They contributed their time and expertise to help resolve the many complex legal and tax issues clouding the future of the ranch. Gladys Thomson, and Orpha Kendall contributed considerable time and labor to keep the ranch operating after Muriel's death. With all of their help, the IRS negotiated a solution, and the Department of the Interior contributed funds for a scenic easement on the property. The MacGregor Ranch has now been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Volunteers now staff a visitors center for the charitable trust that holds and operates the ranch. Notably, the ranch attracted nearly seven thousand people last year. They come from around the nation to witness the active cattle ranch, and to revel in scenery and history as rugged as the Rocky Mountains. Students and youth groups make up a large proportion of the visitors. At the MacGregor ranch, children see how the hardy pioneers once made their living from the land. I am encouraged that all of those children have the opportunity to see how a ranch operates, and to see what good stewards of the land Colorado ranchers have been.

Mr. Speaker, the MacGregor family has left a lasting legacy for all of us to enjoy. I salute them, and all of the good people who worked to preserve that legacy. We all have a lot to gain from preserving our history and preserving the ranching way of life.

THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT AND  
EASING ADOPTION COSTS

**HON. NEWT GINGRICH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of my colleagues the following editorial from the Marietta Daily Journal, which recognizes the importance of the Adoption Tax Credit passed by Congress in 1996 and urges further Congressional action to ease the costs involved in adopting a child.

[From the Marietta Daily Journal]

"AYE" TO ADOPTION CREDIT

People adopt children for lots of reasons. However, the desire to gain a tax break is not one of them. Yes, adoptive parents do receive a tax break from Uncle Sam, but the

amount scarcely comes close to what the adoption process actually costs.

Prospective adoptive parents easily can incur legal fees, medical bills, travel expenses and other costs in excess of \$20,000, according to Cobb County's Mark Johnson, executive director of the Hope for Children adoption agency.

With that in mind, House Speaker Newt Gingrich has announced a push to raise the adoption tax credit to \$8,000 from \$5,000 in hopes of spurring more people to adopt. He also would make the credit available to upper-income adoptive parents. And Mr. Gingrich knows a bit about adoption, having been adopted as a boy by his mother's second husband.

The speaker reasons that children who are adopted are more likely to grow up loved and as contributing members of society than children who spend their youths as wards of the state.

"It is so much better to have an adoption-child tax credit, which is one-third to one-fourth the cost of a year in prison, than it is to have that child end up 16 years later in jail," he said.

An increase in the tax credit would increase the number of adoptions of children that are least likely to be adopted—disabled children, minorities and siblings. Gingrich also announced plans to push for a change in the law that would limit the legal rights of biological parents who refuse to sign adoption papers, even though they fail to support their children financially.

"You can't run a society in which a totally irresponsible person, possibly to blackmail money out of you, can refuse to sign a document for a child they're providing no support for," he argued.

That makes perfect sense to us. And as for increasing the tax credit, the HOPE agency's Johnson predicts the number of adoptions would double if it was increased. That also makes sense, and we hope Congress heeds the speaker's advice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TAX SIMPLIFICATION  
FOR AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS ACT

**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 1998*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues, Messrs. LEVIN, CRANE, MATSUI, HERGER, JOHNSON, ENGLISH and NEAL, in introducing legislation to simplify and reform our current international tax laws. As all of you know, we are in a period of fundamental re-examination of the Internal Revenue Code. One of the most complicated and impenetrable areas of the Code and most in need of change is the foreign area. Our international trade laws have gotten ahead of our tax laws for this area. We consider our bill to be a "down payment" on needed changes in this area.

Now as we begin the process of re-examining in fundamental ways our income tax system, we believe it imperative to address the area of international taxation. In an Internal Revenue Code stuffed with eye-glazing complexity, there is probably no area that contains as many difficult and complicated rules as international taxation. Further, I cannot stress enough the importance of continued discussion between the Congress and Treasury of